

TREASURE

OUR

maine

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline  
**3,478**

coastal population in 2000  
**944,847**

fy03 czma core (section 306)  
funding  
**\$2,000,000**

fy03 czma enhancements  
(section 309) funding  
**\$413,000**

fy03 coastal nonpoint  
implementation  
**\$245,000**

fy03 national estuarine research  
reserve operations, education,  
monitoring and stewardship  
**\$555,000**

MAINE'S COASTLINE IS OF MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE. THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY PROVIDES 26,000 JOBS AND \$740 MILLION IN ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE STATE; AND SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE STATE'S \$5.6 BILLION TOURIST-GENERATED DOLLARS ARE SPENT AT THE COAST. ALREADY HOME TO ABOUT 44% OF THE STATE'S POPULATION, 90% OF THE POPULATION INCREASE PROJECTED BY THE YEAR 2010 IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN MAINE'S COASTAL COUNTIES. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF MAINE'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES.

## THE CZMA IN MAINE

The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.

### *Maine Coastal Management Program*

*Approved: 1978*

*Lead Agency: State Planning Office*

The Maine Coastal Program balances development and conservation of Maine's coastal resources. Led by the State Planning Office, the Coastal Program consists of a network of 19 state laws. Five state agencies work in cooperation with local governments, nonprofit organizations, private business, and the public to improve management of coastal resources. At the state level, the Coastal Program provides support to natural resource agencies to implement and enforce appropriate laws. At the local level, the Coastal Program assists communities with land use planning and provides funding for other local efforts.

Accomplishments of Maine's Coastal Program include:

- *Providing initial staffing and leadership to create the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System. This system transfers a comprehensive suite of real-time and archived data from the Gulf of Maine to the Internet. Fishermen, shippers, recreational boaters, rescue personnel, educators, and interested citizens use this information to increase safety, improve business practices, and enhance research.*
- *Establishing Maine as one of the states leading the nation in Smart Growth. Activities have included reducing state subsidies for sprawl, providing incentives for development in growth areas, creation of a Smart Growth toolbox, sponsoring Smart Growth Challenge Grants for towns and regional governments, and holding a multi-week Smart Growth Institute for Maine Planners.*
- *Establishing a system of co-management in Maine's lobster fishery. Lobster zone councils apply local knowledge in assisting Maine's Department of Marine Resources in managing this critically important fishery. An apprentice program and limited entry into the industry are a part of this program.*
- *Creation of three Coastal Stewards programs that provide an intensive 5-week educational experience to adults in exchange for volunteer stewardship. Thousands of hours of volunteer time have been logged for activities such as water quality monitoring, phytoplankton monitoring, watershed surveys, interpretive tours, and trail building.*

## **Maine's National Estuarine Research Reserve Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve**

**Designated: 1986**

**Lead Agency: Reserve Management Authority**

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of a national network of coastal protected areas that conduct science, education, and stewardship. The reserve system is a partnership between NOAA and the states. Wells Reserve protects fields, forests, salt marsh, and sandy beach on the densely populated southern coast of Maine. The reserve's diverse habitats support a broad variety of plants and animals, including rare species such as least terns, piping plovers, and slender blue flag iris.

**RESEARCH:** Wells Reserve research staff and visiting scientists investigate Gulf of Maine estuaries, salt marshes, and watersheds to produce information needed for sustaining or restoring these coastal habitats and communities. Tangible results of reserve research include reopening local clam beds for harvest and increasing salt-marsh acreage. The reserve's estuarine research has reinforced the concept that the quality of coastal environments rests upon the health of entire watersheds. The reserve, in response, has expanded its research-based conservation activities to encompass the watersheds of southern Maine.

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** The reserve educates its community about coastal ecology through lectures, guided tours, workshops, and field trips. Programs focus on the reserve's natural history and current research while addressing the effects of development, sprawl, erosion, and pollution on watersheds. The reserve's Coastal Training Program provides up-to-date scientific information and training opportunities to people who make decisions affecting coastal resources.

## **PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION**

Like many coastal states, the needs of Maine's coastal communities vary by geography. While conservation is crucial in rapidly developing southern Maine, maintaining traditional marine-related livelihoods and creating positive economic development opportunities are important in other regions of the state. Maine's Downeast region is heavily dependent on natural resource-based industries and suffers from chronically high unemployment rates and low per capita income. The Maine Coastal

Management Program works with several local partners to improve the long-term economic outlook for the region. Activities have included:

- *Fostering traditional and emerging industries — preserving working waterfronts, expanding marine technology;*
- *Improving Coastal Research — advising on the development of a new Downeast (marine) Research Institute*
- *Improving Coastal Regulations — supporting a marine aquaculture task force;*
- *Organizing Citizens — leadership development for coastal residents and launching a marine resources network;*
- *Creating New Tourism Destinations — crafting a sustainable tourism strategy, purchasing public access sites, preserving a historic smokehouse; creating marine education exhibits at a new world-class visitor center.*

Through these successful efforts, Downeast Maine is better able to capitalize on its rich maritime history and coastal resources for a brighter future.